

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added. In addition to the remarks presented in the Amendment filed June 29, 2010, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Spisich at the interview held July 20, 2010, are appreciated. The remarks below constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,619,012 (Wachtel). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As discussed at the interview, Wachtel fails to disclose bristles in a ring shape, each having a face that becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to the axial direction of the brush core, as recited in claims 1 and 3.

Wachtel discloses a hairbrush. Wachtel discloses a core portion 3 and a plurality of small loops 7 arranged along a generatrix of the core 3 (Fig. 1). Wachtel also discloses pins or pins 11 which project from the core 3 (Figs. 5 and 7). However, in Wachtel, the loop 7 does not extend from the core such that a face of the loops becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to an axial direction of the core 3 (see Figs. 1 and 7). Thus, Wachtel fails to disclose the above feature of claims 1 and 3.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000-325139 (JP 139). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

JP 139 fails to disclose bristles extending away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core, as recited in claims 1 and 3.

JP 139 discloses a mascara brush. JP 139 discloses a wire core 3, loop parts 4b of brush bristles and straight bristles 4a (abstract and Fig. 1). However, in JP 139, the loop parts 4b do not extend away from the wire core 3 with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the wire core. Thus, JP 139 fails to disclose the above feature of claims 1 and 3.

Further, JP 139 fails to disclose bristles in a ring shape, each having a face that becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to the axial direction of the brush core, as recited in claims 1 and 3.

In JP 139, a face of the loop part 4 does not extend from the wire core 3 such that a face of the loop becomes a straight line (see Fig. 1). Thus, JP 139 fails to disclose the above feature of claims 1 and 3.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,744,377 (Dolan). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Dolan fails to disclose "the bristles extend away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claim 1.

Dolan discloses a mascara applicator. Dolan discloses a rod 12 and parallel rings 11 (Figs. 4-9). However, in Dolan, the parallel rings 11 do not extend away from the rod 12 with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the rod. Thus, Dolan fails to disclose the above feature, as recited in claim 1.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,689,968 (Rissler). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Rissler fails to disclose "the bristles extend away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Rissler discloses brushes. Rissler discloses brush head 11 and a plurality of bristles wherein each bristle comprises ring shaped bristle members 14, 15 and 16 (Figs. 1 and 3). However, in Rissler, the ring shaped bristle members 14, 15 and 16 do not extend from the brush head with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush head. Thus, Rissler fails to disclose the above feature, as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,599,191 (Meunier). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Meunier fails to disclose "the bristles extend away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Meunier discloses a brush. Meunier discloses a head 8 and loop shaped bristles 9 comprising outer loop shaped portions 10 and inner loop shaped portions 13 (Fig. 3). However, in Meunier, the loop shaped portions 10 do not extend from the head with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the head. Thus, Meunier fails to disclose the above feature, as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Further, Meunier fails to disclose "bristles extend away from the brush core...wherein a face of each bristle becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to the axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claims 1 and 2.

In Meunier, the loop shaped portions 10 do not extend from the head 8 such that a face of the loop portion 8 becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to an axial direction of the head. Thus, Meunier fails to disclose the above feature, as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meunier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,229 (Edwards). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Meunier and Edward, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or to have rendered obvious "the ring-shaped bristles extend away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core" and "the ring-shaped bristles extend away from the brush core ...wherein a face of each ring-shaped bristle becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to the axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claim 3 and 4.

Similar to the analysis of the §102 rejection of claims 1 and 2, Meunier fails to disclose "the ring-shaped bristles extend away from the brush core with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the brush core" and "the ring-shaped bristles extend away from the brush core...wherein a face of each ring-shaped bristle becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to an axial direction of the brush core," as recited in claim 3 and 4.

Edward fails to disclose the above feature. Edward discloses bristle sub-assembly. Edward discloses straight bristles 106, 108 and arched bristles 118, 120. However, in Edward, the arched bristles do not extend from a head portion 104 with substantially equal angular interval therebetween when viewed in an axial direction of the head portion, or such that a face of the ring-shaped bristle becomes a straight line when viewed from a side perpendicular to an axial direction of the head portion. Thus, Edward fails to make up for the deficiency of Meunier.

Thus, Meunier and Edward, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or to have rendered obvious the above feature, as recited in claim 3 and 4.

Thus, claims 1-4 are patentable over Wachtel, JP 139, Dolan, Rissler, Meunier and Edwards. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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